(b) After the increase in prices of imported oils, the prices of various brands of vanaspati had been increased by around Rs. 1.50 per kg.

(c) The price was increased to reduce the wide gap between the prices of indigenous edible oils and imported edible oils meant for supply to vanaspati industry.

Increase in prices of edible oils supplied through Public Distribution System

4169. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of edible oils supplied through Public distribution system has been increased;

(b) whether Government are aware that such an oil is likely to find its way to black market; and

(c) if so, the steps propose to be taken to check this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) All State Governments/UT Administrations, who are responsible for actual distribution of edible oils, have been repeatedly advised to ensure effective checking of leakage and regular supply to card holders. The States/UTs have been asked to furnish a monthly certificate about proper utilisation of imported oils meant for Public Distribution System.

Fixing of retention prices of fertilizers

4170. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much excess money had recently been paid as subsidy in the name of farmers through wrong retention price fixation for the producers of fertilizers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a nexus between the bureaucrats and producers to defraud the exchequer;

(c) what are the reasons for taking all the officers in the Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee on deputation; and

(d) how it is ensured that retention price is accurate in the absence of any direct association of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Price at which fertilizers are made available to the farmers is statutorily controlled and is uniform throughout the country. The difference between the consumer price and the retention price is paid as subsidy to the manufacturing units. While the current consumer price is the same as that prevalent in July 1981, the cost of production of fertilizers has gone up resulting in higher subsidy payments to the manufacturing units. It is not correct that any excess money has been paid as subsidy to the manufacturers through wrong fixation of the retention price.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) All the officers in the Fertilizers Industry Coordination Committee (FICC) are not on deputation. Keeping in view the nature of the work, some officers having specialisation in costing, finance and accounts, technical matters and transportation have been taken on deputation.

(d) Accuracy is ensured by fixing the retention price on a normative-cum-actual basis in respect of each manufacturing unit and for each product, in the light of the guidelines approved by the FICC and the Department of Fertilizers. Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) is also a member of the FICC.

Suspension of the Officers Responsible for Non Fulfilment of Export Obligation

4171. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2424